

## **FY 2008 COMMERCE-JUSTICE-SCIENCE APPROPRIATIONS**

### **Key Points:**

- The New Direction Congress is determined to reverse years of drastic cuts in state and local law enforcement assistance under the GOP-led Congress. From 2001 to 2006, funding for these grants was slashed by 42 percent -- from \$4.4 billion to \$2.5 billion. Meanwhile, last year, the FBI reported that violent crime had its biggest increase in over a decade.
- This bill reverses those trends – making its biggest investments in restoring state and local law enforcement assistance, to help make our communities safer.
- The New Direction Congress is working to enact an Innovation Agenda; this measure rejects the President's cuts in innovation programs and instead bolsters scientific research to keep us on the cutting edge of technological breakthroughs and to keep America #1.
- The bill also makes combating climate change a key priority – investing in a range of initiatives including a National Academies Climate Change Committee and critical data collection at NOAA and NASA for understanding global climate change.

Today, the House will begin consideration of H.R. 3093, FY 2008 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations. This bill provides \$53.6 billion in discretionary spending, which is \$3.2 billion over 2007 and \$2.3 billion over the President's request. Following are highlights of some of the bill's provisions.

### **Law Enforcement/Justice Department**

**COPS.** With fresh evidence that the violent crime rate has risen for the second straight year, the bill rejects the President's proposal to slash the COPS program by 94 percent. The bill rejects this cut – and instead provides \$725 million, \$183 million above 2007. This includes funding for such items as: \$100 million for the COPS hiring program; \$175 million for expanding DNA analysis and forensic crime lab capacity; and \$85 million for beefing up enforcement in “meth hot spots,” places where meth is a serious problem.

**Byrne Justice Assistance Grants.** The President's budget proposes eliminating Byrne Justice Assistance Grants, a formula grant program. The bill rejects this elimination – and instead provides \$600 million for these grants.

**State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP).** The President's budget proposes eliminating funding for the State Criminal Alien Assistance program (SCAAP), which assists state and local governments with the costs of jailing undocumented immigrants who have committed crimes not related to their immigration status. The bill rejects this elimination – instead providing \$405 million for 2008.

**Juvenile Justice.** The bill provides \$400 million for juvenile justice programs, \$62 million above 2007. This includes funding for such items as \$100 million for competitive youth mentoring grants; \$81 million for delinquency prevention grants; and \$60 million for Justice Accountability Block Grants.

**Violence Against Women.** The President's budget proposes cutting Violence Against Women programs by \$13 million. The bill rejects this cut – and instead provides \$430 million, or \$48 million above 2007, for these programs to reduce violence against women, and to strengthen services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

**FBI.** The bill provides \$6.5 billion for the FBI, which is \$509 million above 2007 and \$148 million above the President's request. According to the FBI, under the President's request, the Bureau would have needed to institute a hiring freeze, postpone new programs, and cut operations across the board. The bill's funding includes an additional \$71 million for counterterrorism and criminal investigation efforts, allowing the Bureau to hire an additional 272 agents.

## **Commitment to American Innovation**

**Science.** The bill includes \$28 billion, \$1 billion above the President's request, for science and science education as part of the Innovation Agenda to keep America competitive in the global market.

**National Science Foundation.** The measure provides \$80 million more than the President's request, putting NSF on track to double over the next 10 years in order to ensure the U.S. maintains its position as a global leader in scientific research and technology. This includes supports for quality math and science education including scholarships to encourage young scientists to become math and science teachers.

**National Institute of Standards and Technology.** The bill rejects the President's cuts and invests 23 percent above 2007 to promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards, and technology.

- The bill rejects the President's termination of **Advanced Technology Program (ATP)** for investments in early-stage, innovative technologies, research to solve manufacturing problems and initiatives to develop new technologies for commercial use.
- The measure also rejects the President's 57 percent cut in the **Manufacturing Extension Partnerships (MEP)** to help small and mid-size manufacturers compete globally by providing them with everything from plant modernization to employee training to advanced manufacturing technologies.

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.** The measure restores a majority of the President's cuts and includes funds to protect the land surrounding our nation's coasts and estuaries.

**National Aeronautics and Space Administration.** The bill provides \$17.8 billion, \$1.3 billion more than last year, including funds for scientific research in space (such as the Hubble Space Telescope,); aeronautical research; for the manned exploration in space; and for education dedicated to space.

## **Combating Global Climate Change**

**Global Climate Change.** Rejects the President's cuts and instead provides \$1.9 billion for initiatives including: a National Academies' Climate Change Committee to investigate issues and make recommendations to address Global Climate Change; for advance climate change sensors at NASA (Total Solar Irradiance Sensors) and NOAA (Earth Radiation Budget Sensor) to continue long-term climate data records essential to understanding global climate change; and an incentive program to assist businesses in new strategies to combat global warming.